



April 1, 2014

Dear DCPS Families,

As you prepare to enroll your child in District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) for the 2014-2015 School Year, I want to take a few moments to share some exciting news about the progress we have made as a school system and some of the improvements we are planning for the upcoming school year.

First, our students are making incredible strides academically. With a robust new curriculum and outstanding educators, our students have made progress any way you look at it. DC outpaced other states on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the "Nation's Report Card." And our scores on this exam have never been higher. This is exciting news that reflects the hard work of our students and teachers and underscores our commitment to providing our students the rigorous curriculum and world-class instruction they deserve and need to succeed in college and in life.

Second, we are investing in our school like never before. Over the past few years, we have spent hundreds of millions to modernize our buildings, we have attracted, hired and retained high-quality educators, and we have provided our students with the resources they need to succeed and enjoy learning. For next school year, we are offering \$5 million in new Proving What's Possible for Student Satisfaction awards in which schools can apply for grants to help make school more enjoyable for students. We are extending the school day in some schools to give students more learning time. All said, there is greater than \$50 million more going directly into schools next year. I am excited to see what our schools can do with this new award and how they expand their options to make schools fun and exciting for students.

Finally, our continued work toward providing a quality educational experience for all students has resulted in increased interest and excitement for our school system. This year, we saw another enrollment increase with more and more District families are choosing our schools. Clearly, we are on the rise and I am more than pleased that you and your family have decided to join us.

**Why is it important to enroll early?**

Early enrollment helps us project the number of students for each school, which then allows us to hire the proper number of staff, and to order the correct number of textbooks and supplies. Ultimately, early enrollment helps facilitate a smooth opening to the school year. Here are some key enrollment dates:

- **April 1:** Enrollment begins.
- **May 1:** All enrollment packet material due for families who applied in the Common Lottery.
- **June 20:** Deadline for enrollment (all forms must be returned to your child's SY 2014-2015 school).

Please fill out the enclosed forms and bring them to your child's school as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's school directly or the DCPS Office of Student Enrollment & School Funding at (202) 478-5738.

Thank you for choosing to send your child to one of our schools for the 2014-2015 school year. I look forward to an engaging school year, and I am excited about working with you to meet your child's learning needs.

Sincerely,

Kaya Henderson  
Chancellor